

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for the optical analysis of a thread or yarn (F) fed to a textile machine, said device comprising at least one light emitter element (3,4) and at least one receiver element (5), said emitter element (3,4) generating a light signal which strikes said thread (F) before being sensed by the receiver element (5) which, based on this sensing, defines a characteristic of the thread (F) such as its movement or its stoppage, a dimensional defect or another dimensional characteristic, ~~characterised by comprising~~ wherein, interposed between said light emitter element (3,4) and said receiver element (5), light transparent means (6) which are encountered by the light signal after it has interacted with the thread (F), and which act as a thread guide, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said light transparent means (6) are of ceramic material.
2. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said ceramic material contains at least one of the following : alumina, zirconium, sapphire, that is the ceramic material is a transparent textile ceramic.
3. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said light transparent means (6) are in contact with the thread (F).
4. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the light transparent means (6) comprise an at least partly annular body (20), the monitored thread (F) being positioned within the aperture (35) of this body, said body (20) being

supported by the device casing (30) which is shaped such as to lie at least partly about said aperture (35) of said body (20) of the light transparent means (6).

5. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein its casing (30) comprises two coupled-together parts (28,29) which retain between them the body (20) of the light transparent means (6).
6. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the parts (28, 29) of its casing (30) present opposing edges (31,32) able to be fitted together, within said parts (28,29) there being positioned an electrical circuit (100) presenting the at least one light emitter element (3,4) and the receiver element (5), this latter being connected to a microprocessor unit (120) arranged to evaluate each monitored characteristic of the thread (F), in accordance with a preset algorithm on the basis of the light signal received by the receiver element (5).
7. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the parts (28, 29) of its casing (30) and the support (33) present arms projecting from a main portion and at least partly defining the body (30) of the light transparent means.
8. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein ~~these~~ said arms are mutually opposing and define a corridor (37) in the casing (30) of the device (1).
9. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein on the opposing arms there are positioned a light transmitter element (49) and a receiver element

(51) which act as an optical barrier arranged to modify, when intercepted, the activity state of the device (1).

10. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein on at least one of said opposing arms there is positioned a light transmitter element (3,4) directed towards the receiver element (5).
11. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the light emitter elements (3,4) are at least two in number and are orientated such that the thread (F) is always struck by the light emitted by at least one of them.